



MAY 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

** Denotes programs with artwork available on [Military Channel's Press Website](#)
All Times EST and PST // All airdates are subject to change

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PREMIERES

[NARROW ESCAPES OF WWII](#) TV-PG

Season 1 Premieres Tuesday, May 15 at 10 PM E/P

This series is about the heroes of World War II who stood up and fought when everything seemed lost. NARROW ESCAPES OF WWII highlights the brilliant generals and ferocious warriors whose selfless acts of courage saved hundreds of thousands of innocent lives. Told exclusively through their personal stories, this series recreates the suicidal raids, fantastic rearguard actions, back-to-the-wall fighting, and mass evacuations.

- **The Amiens Raid Premieres Tuesday, May 15 at 10 PM E/P** The Mosquito fighter planes behind Operation Jericho, led by Group Capt. Percy Charles Pickard, brought about the bombing of Amiens prison in German-occupied France so that French Resistance fighters and Allied spies could escape before their execution day.
- **The Doolittle Raid Premieres Tuesday, May 22 at 10 PM E/P** To revenge the attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. bombers staged an astonishing long-distance strike on Tokyo, all the while knowing they were unlikely to return alive.
- **Wingate & the Chindits Premieres Tuesday, May 29 at 10 PM E/P** Surrounded by the Japanese, Orde Wingate led the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade in one of the most imaginative and complex escapes of World War II.

ONGOING SERIES

[AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE](#) ** TV-PG

Season 2 Continues Saturdays at 8 PM E/P

Hollywood film and television star Lou Diamond Phillips hosts Military Channel's hit franchise AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE. Airing Saturday evenings, AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE pairs Phillips with retired and active duty officers who lived through major battles or have an expertise in the conflicts depicted in iconic military flicks. As each film makes its Military Channel premiere, AN OFFICER AND A MOVIE provides expert commentary that can only come from being "on the ground" during the action as these officers reflect on the themes of that night's film and also provide personal insight that puts each movie into a modern context.

- **Flight of the Intruder Premieres Saturday, May 5 from 8-11 PM E/P** Joining host Lou Diamond Phillips is author and former Navy pilot Stephen Coonts to discuss the real A-6 Intruders pilots portrayed in the Vietnam war film “Flight of the Intruder,” based on his best-selling novel of the same name. Mr. Coonts entered the Navy in 1968 after college and flew an A-6 Intruder on two combat cruises in Vietnam, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and other commendations. Later, he served as a flight instructor, catapult, and arresting gear officer aboard the carrier Nimitz. After the Navy, he practiced law and began writing. His first novel, *Flight of the Intruder*, spent 28 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller list in 1986. In all, 17 of his 20 novels have had that distinction.

GREAT PLANES ** TV-G

Season 1 Continues Wednesdays at 10 PM E/P

In GREAT PLANES, get inside the influential, innovative combat aircraft that survived the most dangerous missions, and learn how they influenced aircraft engineering of today through interviews with the pilots that flew them. The series’ host, former Navy Commander and F-14 Tomcat pilot Terry Deitz, analyzes the remarkable technical features and examines the groundbreaking tactics that advanced aerial combat.

- **C130 Hercules Premieres Wednesday, May 2 at 10 PM E/P** The C130 Hercules is one of the most versatile aircraft in existence. It has been used in a variety of roles including, but not limited to, airborne assault, search and rescue, scientific research support, weather reconnaissance, aerial refueling, maritime patrol, and aerial firefighting.
- **AV8 Harrier Premieres Wednesday, May 9 at 10 PM E/P** Known as the world’s first vertical takeoff and landing fixed-wing aircraft, the AV8 Harrier is the first jet to have hovering capabilities. This plane is designed perfectly for battle and has become a key aircraft in protecting the United States during times of war.
- **F5 Freedom Fighter Premieres Wednesday, May 16 at 10 PM E/P** Small in size but big in influence, the Northrop F5 Freedom Fighters defy current trends in fighter aircraft. While other planes were becoming bigger and more complex, the F5s were agile, easy-maintenance, and low-cost. Despite their small size, the supersonic fighter aircraft was designed for operation by more than thirty U.S. allied nations.
- **F105 Thunderchief Premieres Wednesday, May 23 at 10 PM E/P** Considered the biggest single engine fighter of its day, the F105 Thunderchief became known as the one-man air force. When it was first produced, the F105 was the biggest single-engine, single-seat fighter aircraft ever built. After proving itself a sturdy work horse, the F105 was produced in large numbers.
- **XB-70 Valkyrie Premieres Wednesday, May 30 at 10 PM E/P** Ahead of its time, the XB-70 Valkyrie could travel at three times the speed of sound and yet never went into production. Now, more than a half century after its first flight, it’s still one of aviation’s most interesting achievements. Able to fly Mach 3 at an altitude of 70,000 feet, this six-engine aircraft could have avoided interceptors and would have been the only effective anti-bomber weapon of its time.

FINALES

EDGE OF WAR ** TV-PG

Season 1 Finale Airs Tuesday, May 8 at 10 PM E/P

Military Channel’s all-new original series EDGE OF WAR revisits the string of events that paved the way for the world’s most critical declarations of war, examining each pivotal decision’s unfurling with minute-by-minute storytelling. Hosted by retired U.S. Army General Wesley K. Clark, EDGE OF WAR transports viewers into the minds, war rooms, and military operations that shaped the world as we know

it. From World War II to Korea, Argentina, and the Middle East, see how leaders brought their countries to the very edge, and learn their motivations in risking it all.

- **Thatcher's War Premieres Tuesday, May 1 at 10 PM E/P** With domestic problems looming large, the Argentinian Military Junta invaded the Falklands, a rocky British outpost long regarded by Argentinians as their own. The Junta thought that Britain would be too weak to contest the invasion, but British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ordered a task force to sail 8,000 miles to take the island back at any cost.
- **Taking Down Noriega Premieres Tuesday, May 8 at 10 PM E/P** In 1989, Panama's leader and former U.S. ally General Manuel Noriega became a wanted man. International media reported Panamanian Defense Forces abused Gen. Noriega's politicians and sometimes even the country's own citizens. When PDF personnel killed an off-duty U.S. Marine just before Christmas, President George H. W. Bush ordered a highly organized invasion, Operation Just Cause, to capture the general in charge.

WORLD WAR I IN COLOUR TV-PG

Season 1 Finale Airs Monday, May 14 at 10 PM E/P

Narrated by Academy Award-nominated actor Kenneth Branagh, WORLD WAR I IN COLOUR brings the gritty reality of life in the trenches to screen in full color for the first time. Hundreds of skilled technicians worked to restore and colorize rare archive footage from Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and the U.S. The series includes interviews with eyewitness survivors and documents material that has never previously been shown on television.

- **Mayhem on the Eastern Front Premieres Monday, May 7 at 10 PM E/P** When war broke out in 1914, the Eastern Front campaign moved swiftly. Austrian troops invaded Serbia while Russia, as Serbia's ally, invaded both Germany and Austria. The Austrians quickly retreated, demoralized by the success of the Russian advance. Yet against the Germans, 50,000 Russians were killed or wounded at the battle of Tannenberg. Spurred by their easy victories against the Russians, German Generals Paul von Hindenberg and Erich von Ludendorff dreamed of an extended German empire to the East.
- **Victory and Despair Premieres Monday, May 14 at 10 PM E/P** For the Allies, 1918 proved to be the costliest year of the war. On the Western Front, two million British and three million French were either captured, wounded or killed over a few miles of French and Belgian mud. On March 21, General Erich von Ludendorff attacked a 64-mile front that was to be the greatest strike yet in modern industrialized warfare. The Germans advanced 20 miles in 14 days, and von Ludendorff set his sights on Paris and victory. Field Marshal Douglas Haig rallied his British troops to fight to the end. Casualties tallied at 350,000 for both sides, and the toll taken on von Ludendorff's troops overstretched his war machine.

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